



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Two, Issue 3b



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

In May, the Mayor and Common Council met in a budget workshop to discuss the comments made in the budget public hearing and to review the proposed capital improvement projects. The Council once again reviewed the detailed budget worksheets seeking additional areas to reduce costs. Council recommended to the Mayor that the rental licensing program be deferred at this time and removed from the budget and that the City Administrator find an additional \$25,000 in reductions.

These cuts totaled \$100,000 from the Operating General Fund.

To recap, the general fund operating budget passed by the Common Council, including these additional reductions, will be:

General Government	\$1,992,080
Public Safety	5,660,656
Public Works	3,463,749
Community Support	118,243
Recreation and Parks	<u>930,252</u>
Total Operating Expense Budget	\$12,164,979

Along with the tax increase, the Common Council passed Resolution 10-3, which directs the revenues from this increase be used solely and exclusively for expenditures for urgently needed capital improvements and that no part of the revenue derived from such incremental property tax increase is to be devoted to the City's General Fund for day-to-day operational activities.

The capital improvement projects to be funded with these additional funds in Fiscal Year 2011 will include storm drain repairs to East Green Street, Clifton Boulevard and Fitzhugh Avenue; street repairs to a number of streets in the area surrounding Bond Street (a complete list of all the streets to be repaired can be found in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget on the City's web page www.WestminsterMD.gov), and replacement of three dump trucks, a snow plow, a trackless snow blower, trash compactor, and a hill mower as well as refurbishing truck frames.

The Common Council approved the General Fund Operating Budget, the Water Fund Budget, the Sewer Fund Budget and the Housing Fund Budget on May 24, 2010, for implementation on July 1, 2010. The details of these budgets are available for review on the City's web page or at the City administrative offices at 56 West Main Street or City Hall.

The participation of our citizens by attending the public hearing or providing suggestions and recommendations is a valuable component of the budget process. It is appreciated by all members of the Council. The commitment of our residents to the health and vitality of the City was apparent in all of these discussions. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,
Kevin R. Utz
Mayor

Several of our water system customers have asked about the cost of mailing this newsletter. When the new automated utility billing system was implemented, the bills were printed on a full page, rather than the post card. This necessitated the mailing of the bill in an envelope. However, the newsletter, with the bill, is mailed for the cost of one stamp, so there is no additional cost associated with the mailing of the newsletter. Thank you for sharing your comments.

New Features at Westminster City Park!



Let's Play! The Westminster City Department of Recreation and Parks announce the completion of two new features in the City Park West area. On Friday, April 23, 2010, Mayor Kevin Utz, Westminster Lions Club

President, Ron Brewer, Director of Recreation and Parks, Ron Schroers, other city personnel and the public gathered for the ribbon-cutting and dedication of the **NEW** Westminster Lions Club Playground.

The playground is located behind the Westminster Family Fitness Center building on 11 Longwell Ave. The equipment is geared for children ages 1-10. Families will be able to watch their older children play ball, while keeping a close eye on their younger children. The installment of ADA-compliant playground equipment was completed by the Emmitsburg based company Playground Specialist, Inc. The final touches were completed this past week which included a rubberized safety surface. The Westminster Lions Club helped to fund the new playground through a generous donation of \$14,200.00, in addition to other grant money.



On Thursday, May 20, 2010, Mayor Kevin Utz, Westminster Fallfest President Marshall Green, Westminster Optimist President John Paris, Director of

Recreation and Parks Ron Schroers, Mrs. Evelyn Babylon, and other city personnel and the public gathered for the ribbon-cutting and dedication of the David S. Babylon, Jr. Community Building.

For more information on this and other playgrounds or facilities in the Westminster City limits visit our website www.westminstermd.gov or call 410-857-9072.

Union Crossing and Pennsylvania Avenue Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies



On April 23, 2010, Mayor Kevin Utz was joined by the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development Deputy Secretary Clarence Snuggs, Carroll County Commissioner Michael Zimmer, and Projects Director Shannon Snow of Episcopal Housing Corporation, to break ground for nine new townhomes.

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During the first week of June, four of these homes were constructed on site. Union Crossing, as the project is called, is the result of a partnership between local, county and state governments with non-profit Episcopal Housing Corporation being the lead contractor.

The homes will be sold to low to moderate-income families.

Union Crossing is located near the intersection of Union Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, adjacent to McDaniel College. The townhouses were built utilizing modular construction designed to match the existing architecture and fabric of the neighborhood. The homes are 1,450 square feet with three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, and a full, unfinished basement. The homes are equipped with Energy Star appliances and each home has a covered front porch, back yard and two dedicated parking spaces.



Phase I of the project consists of the four townhomes on Union Street which were shipped to Westminster on flatbed tractor trailers. The units were then craned and set onto prepared foundations. The site contractor will finish off the interior and exterior of the homes over the next 6-8 weeks with move-in beginning in August. Once Phase I is complete the remaining five units, Phase II, will begin.

The estimated project cost is \$2.9 million. The project received \$300,000 in State of Maryland HOME funds and \$800,000 from Community Development Block Grant funds. Episcopal Housing Corporation also received a commitment for a construction loan through The Reinvestment Fund, which will be re-paid through sales proceeds. An EmPOWER Clean Energy grant from the Maryland Department of Energy is being used for the energy efficiency upgrades.

The home sales prices will range from \$207,900 to \$209,900, with a soft second mortgage in the amount of \$33,333 provided by the HOME funds. This subsidy will reduce the purchase price to \$174,600 - \$176,000, which is affordable to households at or below 80 percent of area median income.

The new homes will complement revitalization work that has been underway in the community for the past seven years. This revitalization has included façade improvements and the recently completed streetscape improvements. These projects were funded with Maryland State Community Legacy grants and Maple Street Program grant funds.

For information on purchasing one of these homes contact Sandy Anderson in the Administrative Offices building at 56 West Main Street, or by calling 410-751-5505 or by email at sanderson@westgov.com.

(see next column)

New Services for City Residents Starting July 1, 2010

Streamlined Bulk Waste Removal

Starting July 1, 2010, City residents will begin receiving the benefits of a new, more efficient bulk waste removal system. With the implementation of the new service residents will enjoy a standard schedule **WITHOUT THE NEED TO CALL FOR A PICK-UP**. This new schedule will provide the time needed for the City Street Department staff to attend to other service needs, such as light repair and pothole patching.

Beginning July 1, every other week the entire city limits will have the following schedule: with the exception of yard waste which will still be picked up on a weekly basis.

Monday - Brush Pick-Up
Tuesday - Metal Pick-Up
Thursday - Bulk* Trash Pick-Up East of MD 31
Friday - Bulk* Trash Pick-Up West of MD 31

** Bulk service includes non-hazardous waste and non-household trash.*

All bulk waste will be collected from residences throughout the city limits on this every-other-week schedule. YARD WASTE will continue to be picked up every week on Wednesdays. Regular trash service provided by Ecology Services will remain the same. A complete schedule of pickup dates can be found on the City website at www.westminstermd.gov.

Client Services Request Form On The Web

Also beginning July 1, 2010, Westminster City residents will be able to immediately report maintenance issues to City officials via a new Client Services Request System. **Residents can call 410-848-9000 during normal business hours with any request for service or a citizen can go to the City's website www.westminstermd.gov and complete the simple request for service form to report a code violation, darkened streetlight or a pothole in need of repair at any time.** Other examples of problems which could be reported might include signage problems, street issues, water and sewer line problems, etc. For those residents who would like to receive a follow-up status report, giving an email address will ensure they receive updates on the resolution of the problem.

With this new reporting system in place, City officials will be able to address maintenance requests quickly and more efficiently than before, and citizens can receive feedback on the status of their request. Citizens are encouraged to utilize the web request system in order to streamline the repair process. So, starting July 1, 2010, please visit our website and click on the Clients Service Request Form and fill in the blanks. You can be assured your alertness will be addressed and appreciated.

Recreation & Parks Department Summer Programs

Summer Camps Available!

Day Camp is held at Westminster City Park and is designed for children 6-12 years. Children will have loads of fun playing games and sports, making crafts, going on field trips and swimming at the Westminster Municipal Pool.

We offer camp during all full weeks that Carroll County Schools are out of session for the summer. The cost is \$115 per week. AM and PM care is also available at an additional charge.

Tot Camp – Now offering 8 weeks!

Tot Camp is held at the Community Building at the Westminster Municipal Pool and is designed for children ages 3- 5, who must be potty trained. Camp is 9-11:30am and costs \$60 per week.

Spaces Are Filling Fast,
So Sign Up Now!

June 15-August 23: 3 on 3 Basketball.

Five weeks of fundamentals and drills and five weeks of games. The league is for boys and girls ages 5-13.

Fundamentals and games will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8pm. Fee is \$30. Go to www.hoopeducation.com/carroll_county or email shane@hoopeducation.com.



Westminster Municipal Pool

The Westminster Municipal Pool is open daily through Labor Day. The pool is located at 325 Royer Road and is open to the public. Pool applications are being accepted now! 2010 member fees are \$200/City Family membership and \$128/City Individual membership; \$260/County Family membership and \$146/County Individual membership. Call for more information: 410-857-5633.

Swim Lesson Registration

Sign up for the Stingrays Learn to Swim Program. \$45 per child. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced classes available. Registration: May 19th & June 2nd 5:30-7:30 at the Community Building at the pool. *Parent or Legal Guardian must complete registration in person.* Contact Linda Kephart, Swim Lesson Coordinator: 410-848-0059.

Join the Westminster Stingrays Competitive Swim Team!

For more information go to www.westminsterswimteam.com.

Westminster Family Center

The Westminster Family Fitness Center is a full service Health and Wellness Center for all ages! Features include many weight machines and free weight options, cardio equipment, aerobics classes, locker rooms and showers, and a game room. It is open 7 days a week, and memberships and daily guest fees apply. Call for rates or to ask about renting the gymnasium: 410-751-5501. Child supervision is available.

Hours

Monday-Thursday-5:30am to 10pm
Friday- 5:30am to 9pm
Saturday-8am to 5pm
Sunday-12pm to 5pm

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS 2010 Summer Concert Series

Join us at the Westminster City Park each Sunday in July at 6:45pm for a variety of great music. Celebrating our 15th summer, the concerts are FREE and open to the public. Food and beverages will be sold. Diapers, formula, paper goods or cleaning supplies will be collected to help the homeless and low-income individuals served by Human Services Programs, Inc. of Carroll County. The concert series is presented by the City of Westminster Recreation and Parks Department, the Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks and Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc.

Schedule of bands is as follows:

July 4th—Sound Storm
July 11th—Dean Crawford and the Dunn's River Band
July 18th—The Van-Dells
July 25th—The Reagan Years

For more information on these concerts, visit www.westminstermd.gov or call 410-857-9072.

Carroll Arts Center Events: July

Friday, July 9, 7:30pm: FLICC presents "The Messenger", 2009, R, 112min. This powerful and tender story is about a returned war hero making his first steps toward a normal life. Will Montgomery, a U.S. Army officer who has just returned home from a tour in Iraq is assigned to the Army's Casualty Notification service. Partnered with fellow officer Tony Stone, he has to bear the bad news to the loved ones of fallen soldiers. When he finds himself drawn to Olivia, to whom he has just delivered the news of her husband's death, Will's emotional detachment begins to dissolve and the film reveals itself as a surprising, humorous and very human portrait of grief and survival.



Saturday, July 10, 8pm: "Oh Boy: A Buddy Holly Tribute." A live tribute concert featuring a four-piece band under the direction of Walt Hetfield, who impersonates the late, great Buddy Holly. Holly was tragically killed at age 22 when his plane crashed in 1959, but in his brief life he recorded a hugely influential body of work that inspired future stars like the Beatles and Bob Dylan. The band plays, note for note, versions of Holly's music, along with other rock and roll and rockabilly classics by other artists such as Richie Valens, the Big Bopper, and Johnny Cash. There is also narration and story-telling throughout the exciting presentation that is truly a "blast from the past." Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for CCAC members, seniors, and students 18 and under.



Carroll Arts Center Galleries

Rejected to Perfected: Fine Art from Recyclables: June 10—Aug 6. The Carroll Arts Center is pleased to jump on the "go-green" bandwagon for its next exhibit. Western Civilizations' throw-away society had its beginnings in the Italian Renaissance when Humanist writers espoused facts that Mother Nature would constantly replenish her resources. The early 20th century Italian Futurist painter, Marinetti, wrote a manifest to the movement that applauded industrial pollution as proof that mankind was moving forward in a positive direction. Enter the 21st century and industrialized nations are looking back, not to the Italian Renaissance or industry but to those countries, while appearing primitive, have been practicing sustainable living. "Rejected to Perfected" will feature artists whose canvas and media are not purchased at the art store, whose pigment will not pollute water sources but bring awareness to the beauty and functionality that can be found in the landfill, recycle bins and dumpsters. These creative artists think out of the box. "Renew-Reuse-Recycle" is their artistic credo. In addition, there will be a few other twists such as displaying the incredible bottle cap sculpture of "Starry Night" on loan from Finksburg Public Library, and we will be selling copies of "Do Martians Recycle" by Sharon Gribbon-Lindemon. The show has been generously sponsored by The Maryland Sustainable Living Fair.



FREE Kids Movies! Every Tuesday This Summer

Following the success of last year's free movies, the Carroll Arts Center will once again be partnering with the downtown businesses in Westminster to present free family movies every Tuesday evening at 7pm throughout the summer. No advance tickets will be distributed, seating is first-come-first-served. Doors open at 6:30pm and concession sales will benefit the Art's Council scholarship fund.

The schedule is as follows:

July 6
Road to El Dorado
2000, PG, 89 mins

July 13
Monsters vs. Aliens
2009, PG, 94 mins

July 20
Wallace & Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit
2005, PG, 94 mins

July 27
All Dogs Go to Heaven
1989, G, 84 mins

August 3
Pebble & the Penguin
1994, G, 74 mins.

August 10
Spy Kids
2001, PG, 88 mins

Synopses of these movies can be found on the Carroll County Arts Council website at www.carrollcountyartscouncil.org.

For more information on these movies or the event, contact the Carroll Arts Center at 410-848-7272.



For more information on any of these events, contact the Carroll Arts Center at 410-848-7272 or visit www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org